


Builth Urban District Council
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1959

Officials.

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Public Health Inspector.....Mr.J.E.Morgan,M.P.H.I.A.,
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Builth Urban District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1959

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Builth Wells Urban District during the year 1959.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 1/60 (Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area.....701 acres.

The Urban District of Builth Wells, which has an area of 701 acres is situated on the right bank of the river Wye in the northern part of the County of Breconshire. The surrounding country is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the residents. The district is also a very pleasant holiday resort.

Population.

Census 1931.....1663.
Census 1951.....1708.
Estimated at Midsummer 1959.....1510.

The Registrar General's estimated population for the last ten years are shown below:

1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959.
1674. 1638. 1576. 1561. 1570. 1570. 1560. 1540. 1540. 1510.

Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses was 545 giving an average number of persons per house of 2.7.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
Legitimate	5	15	20	
Illegitimate	0	1	1	
	5	16	21	13.9

The corrected birthrate was 14.8
The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 16.5.
The district rate was therefore lower than the national average but was a little higher than the district death rate.

Illegitimacy. One illegitimate birth was registered during the year.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	16.	11.	27.	17.8

The corrected deathrate was 14.7
The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.6.
The district rate was therefore higher than the national average but slightly lower than the district birth rate.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live & still births.</u>
	0.	0.	0.	0.

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 20.7.
The district rate was therefore lower than the national average.

Total Live and Still Births.....21.

Infant Deaths. There were no deaths registered during the year in children of under one year of age.

Total Mortality rate.....0.
 Legitimate Mortality rate.....0.
 Illegitimate Mortality rate.....0.
 Neo-natal Mortality rate.....0.
 Early neo-natal Mortality rate.....0.
 Peri-natal Mortality rate.....0.

The total mortality rate for England and Wales was 22.0.

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births....4.7%

Maternal Deaths.No death could be attributed to childbirth,which was extremely satisfactory.

Maternal mortality rate.....0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious disease.....Nil.
 Respiratory tuberculosis.....Nil.
 Other forms of tuberculosis.....Nil.
 Cancer.....Three.

Analysis of Causes of Death. Males...16, Females...11.

	<u>Males</u> .	<u>Females</u> .
Malignant neoplasm,lung.....	1.....	0.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	0.....	2.
Coronary disease.....	5.....	2.
Other heart disease.....	6.....	5.
Other Circulatory disease.....	0.....	1.
Pneumonia.....	0.....	1.
Bronchitis.....	1.....	0.
Ulcer Stomach.....	1.....	0.
Nephritis.....	1.....	0.
Accidents,not motor vehicle.....	1.....	0.

The causes of deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers.

There was no change during the year in your Public Health Officers,Mr.J.E.Morgan remaining as your Public Health Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities.During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff,Newport,Carmarthen,Swansea,Builth and Brecon.Water samples were sent to the Public Analyst for the County at Carmarthen,whilst any investigation required in the control of of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

Nursing and other Facilities.The County Council is responsible for the provision of ambulance and home nursing services.The County also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is obtainable for minor ailments,dental,eye and orthopaedic defects.Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals.The hospital needs of the residents for all diseases apart from infectious disease are provided by the Builth Wells Hospital.The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years.Merthyr Borough treat the patients suffering from infectious disease at Mardy Isolation Hospital.These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

Builth Hospital was closed for a part of the year whilst extensive alterations were carried out.

For the treatment of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for disinfection when required have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supply. No major extensions to the water supply were carried out during the year.

The lack of rainfall and continued hot weather caused the springs supplying our reservoir at Tycapel and providing our supply from Hengwm almost completely to dry up. For a period of two months our supply was solely dependent upon pumping from the Nantgwym direct into the main. It was not possible to filter the water but chlorination was effected. During the period of shortage, restrictions on the use of water were imposed to prevent wastage, and the supply was regularly turned off between the hours of 6 pm. and 7 am. to allow for a build up of pressures.

The Council has agreed to obtain a supply of water, as and when required, from an adjoining Water Board and it is expected that this supply will be available by June 1960. It has also been agreed that the Urban District Council, together with other Authorities in North Breconshire and Radnorshire form a Joint Water Board and procedure to that end is being taken.

Number of visits of inspection.....232.

Number of samples examined.....6.

Five of these samples proved satisfactory. The water was also examined frequently in the adjoining district of Llandewicwm with satisfactory results.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the district is not treated in any way but is discharged in to the River Wye below the town. The number of houses now not connected to a public sewer is 11, 10 have septic tanks and no nuisance is created. 1 other house has an earth closet.

Number of visits in connection with drainage work.....28.

Consultants have been engaged with the view of preparing a possible sewage disposal works for the town.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the collection of refuse. This is collected once a week by your Council staff and disposed of by controlled tipping. No tipping now takes place on the old site, a new refuse tip having been commenced at Caeau Farm.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by your Public Health Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the Public Health Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....30.

Number of complaints investigated.....30.

Number of premises inspected.....30.

Number of premises revisited.....22.

Number of preliminary notices served.....24.

Number of statutory notices served.....0.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control made under byelaws under Section 6, of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....8.
 Number of notices served.....0.

Shops Act.

Number of inspections made.....Nil.

Camping Sites. There is no recognised camping site in the district.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits made.....Nil.

Eradication of bed bugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

Number of premises infested.....Nil.

Rodent Control. The work of inspecting and treating infested premises is carried out by a Council workman. The Caeau Farm refuse tip was treated regularly with good poison bait takes. The sewers were twice flushed out to assist in the control of infestations. Test Baits in the manholes revealed no infestations.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....44.
 Number of premises found infested.....14.
 Number of premises treated by rodent operator.....13.
 Number of premises treated by occupier.....1.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken during the year.

Section 4. Housing. During the year work was commenced on the construction of 12 three bedroom Unity type houses on the Pendre Site. The shortage of bricks during the year prevented the completion of them during the year, but they should be ready for occupation in 1960. The Council have agreed that these houses shall be earmarked for tenants now living in sub standard houses warranting Housing Act procedure.

Two new bungalows were built for private occupation during the year.

Four improvement grants to the total of £792-5-0d. were made during the period.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925-1932.

1. Number of houses on inspection found to be unfit for human habitation. 15.
2. Number of houses the defects in which were remedied by informal action 13.
3. Number representations made with a view to the making of Demolition or Closing Orders.....15.
4. Number of Notices served requiring the execution of works.....Nil.
5. Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.....Nil.
6. Number of Demolition or Closing Orders made.....11.
7. Number of Undertakings accepted.....Nil.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. As from the 14th April 1958 the provisions of Sub Section (1) of Section 37 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 became operative for the Builth Wells area. All milk retailers therefore must sell milk under a Special Designation. Such milk must be also contained in bottles or cartons for the purpose of sale. The selling of loose milk from churns or cans is prohibited.

Six samples of milk were examined for the presence of tuberculosis and brucella abortus. All were reported as being negative.

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Meat.The small private slaughterhouse,licensed on 1st.July 1954,
continues to operate in the district.

Number of visits to this slaughterhouse.....125.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed and inspected	124	25	1084	278
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci</u>				
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	21	-	150	10
Percentage of No.inspected affected with disease other than T.B. or cysticerci	16.8%	-	13.8%	3.6%
<u>T.B. only</u>				
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	3
Percentage of the No.inspected affected with T.B.	0.8%	-	-	1.0%
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>	Nil			

Disposal Collected by knacker

Food condemned during the year.

At Slaughterhouse. Cattle Tuberculosis 7lbs.
Other diseases480lbs.
Other Animals. Tuberculosis...21 lbs.
Other diseases...685 lbs.

Other Food Condemned.....Tins 150.
Pounds weight 206.

This food was buried in Council's tip except that from slaughterhouse which was collected by knacker.

Smithfield Market.During the year the market continued to function satisfactorily as an attested market.The Council has considered the extension of market facilities to include the provision of under cover stallages for cow and calves and pigs.

Food Preparation Rooms(including bakehouses)

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....35.
Number of notices served.....0.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....12.
In the district there is 1 producer retailer and 6 retailers.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....35.
There are 4 of these premises in the town.

Fried Fish Shops.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....5.
There was one fried fish in the town.

Byelaws under Section 15. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The number of food premises, by type, were: Licensed Hotels 12, Food Shops 31, Cafes and unlicensed hotels 8, Fish and Chip shops 1, and 5 bakehouses.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

No case of infectious disease was notified to me during the year. The district remained, therefore, remarkably free from infectious disease. No deaths were caused by infectious disease.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....	15.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....	1.
Number of cases removed as deceased.....	0.
Number of cases removed as disease arrested.....	0.
Number of cases who left the district.....	1.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....	15.

This fresh case was a transfer from another district.

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified in recent years is shown below:

1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959.

4. 3. 2. 3. 0. 1. 1. 3. 1. 1.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the National Health Service Act, the County Council are responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

APPENDIXFactories Acts 1937 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1959 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BUILTH WELLS IN THE COUNTY OF BRECONSHIRE.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

- 1.- INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Builth Wells Urban District

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect ions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in Which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	21	29	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
iii. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	21	29	-	-

2.- Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	--	--	--	--	--
Overcrowding(S.2)	--	--	--	--	--
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	--	--	--	--	--
Inadequate Ventilation(S.4)	--	--	--	--	--
Ineffective drain- age of floors(S.6)	--	--	--	--	--
Sanitary Conveniences(S.7)					
(a)Insufficient	--	--	--	--	--
(b)Unsuitable or defective	--	--	--	--	--
(c)Not separate for sexes	--	--	--	--	--
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to Out- work)	--	--	--	--	--
Total	--	--	--	--	--

Part VI11 Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

district during the year. No outwork was done in the

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health

